

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038825

FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 1490 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN ATHENS CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL AVIV USCINCEUR
18 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1490

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:L GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. ENTIRE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WAS OF COURSE SHOCKED BY YES-
TERDAY MORNING'S ATTACK IN AUB CAMPUS WHEN DEAN OF STUDENTS
ROBERT NAJEMY (U.S. CITIZEN) AND DEAN OF ENGINEERING RAYMOND
GHOSN WERE ASSASSINATED BY WHAT, FROM ALL INDICATION, APPEARS
TO BE A DISGRUNTLED FORMER STUDENT. PRES KIRKWOOD NARROWLY
ESCAPED. STUDENT, WHO HAD BEEN REFUSED READMITTANCE IN CONNEC-
TION WITH 1974 STUDENT STRIKE, EVENTUALLY GAVE HIMSELF UP TO PAL-
ESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND AND HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN
TURNED OVER TO LEBANESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE WAS WOUNDED BY A
FRIEND OF GHOSN'S IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ARRESTED. MEM-
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ORIAL SERVICE AT AUB FOR GHOSN IS TODAY AND FOR NAJEMY

TOMORROW OR LATER. (NEA/ARN PLEASE PASS OUR REPORTS ON THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF ROBER T HOUGHTON). TODAY UNION OF ARAB STUDENTS AND UNION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS-LEBANESE SECTION, AS WELL AS A COMMITTEE OF THE STUDENTS EXCLUDED IN 1974 STRIKE PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCING THE ASSASSINATIONS. AUB HAS DECREED 2-DAY CLOSURE IN MOURNING.

2. THOUGH TO ALL APPEARANCES BASICALLY UNCONNECTED, AUB AFFAIR CAME IN TRAIN OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS MONDAY AND TUESDAY WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS AND COUNTER-KIDNAPPING IN BAB IDRIS-GEORGES PICOT AREA AND ELSEWHERE. FOLLOWED CLOSELY MURDER IN HAMRA OF TURKISH FIRST SECRETARY OKTAR SERIT MONDAY BY WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PROFESSIONAL GUNMEN WORKING FOR ARMENIAN SECRET ARMY. THERE WAS A SECOND ATTACK ON TURKISH DIPLOMATS A FEW HOURS LATER WHICH RESULTED IN WOUNDING AMBASSADOR'S CHAUFFEUR WHO WAS DRIVING AN ATTACHE AT THE TIME. TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS REPORTEDLY THREATENING TO RECALL ALL MEMBERS OF ITS EMBASSY. HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN VIOLENCE AND GET MOST OF THE KIDNAPPED PEOPLE RELEASED.

3. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE STUDYING THE QUESTION HAS DECIDED THAT MANDATE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS RATHER THAN LESSER PERIOD. THIS IS ONLY A PROPOSAL, PROBABLY A TRIAL BALLOON, AND RUNS CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL OF ONE YEAR EXTENSION, ON WHICH THERE IS MORE GENERAL CONSENSUS. LAMBRAKIS
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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